



Asian Grassland Conference (AGC)

Virtual Conference

Second Call

Please register at: <https://edgg.org/AGC> Deadline: 27 February 2022

**Dates changed
19-21 April 2022**



Artemisia sp. and *Stipa sp.* desert steppe in Karaganda Province, Kazakhstan. Photo: I. Smelansky.

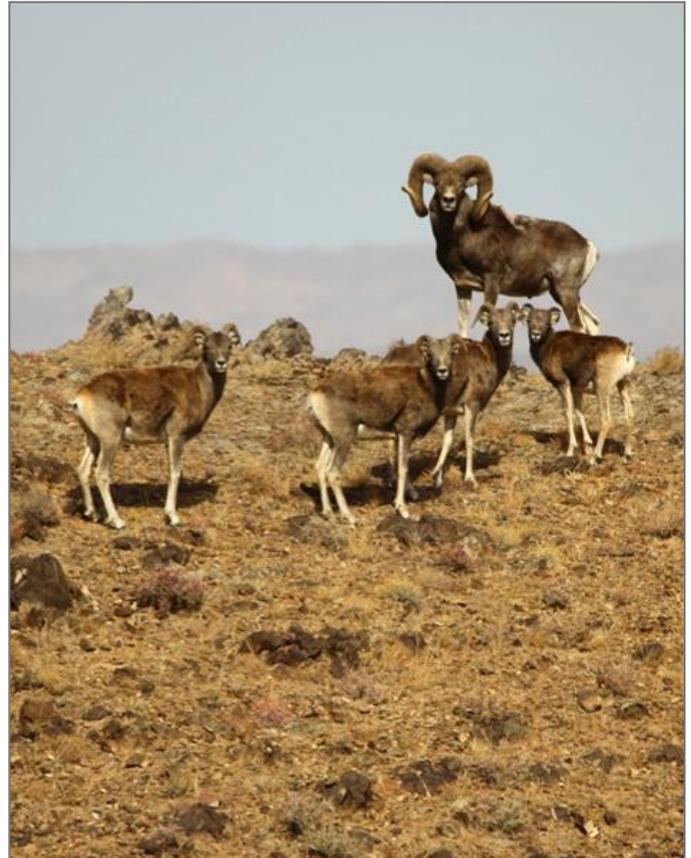
As the largest continent of the world, Asia offers great opportunities for researchers with its vast grasslands, diverse and unique environmental conditions, rich biodiversity, and varied ecological and evolutionary processes, some of which are not observed elsewhere. Simultaneously, it poses great challenges for nature conservation and sustainable livelihoods, due to climatic and land-use changes. The very first Asian Grassland Conference aims to bring researchers together and learn about the latest research on Asian grasslands. We offer opportunities for the exchange of information during our standard talk and speed talk (poster) sessions, as well as several special events. Furthermore, we will host three inspiring keynotes. The conference will reward young scientists for excellent presentations, as well as photos showing the beauty of Asian grasslands. Three Special Features in international journals are planned in conjunction with the conference.

The Asian Grassland Conference (AGC) is a virtual event organised by the **Eurasian Dry Grassland Group** (EDGG; www.edgg.org). It is free of charge, owing to the generous support of the **International Association for Vegetation Science** (IAVS), the mother organization of EDGG, and the Inner Mongolia University. Due to important cultural and scientific events taking place in January and February, we changed the dates of the conference to **19-21 April 2022** to enable higher level of participation. We invite researchers and conservationists from any discipline, who are interested in Asian grasslands, to join us. We hope to see a broad level of regional representation in the event, also highlighting research from less well-known parts of the continent. You can find more information about the event, including instructions for registration, at <https://edgg.org/AGC>. The deadline for abstract submission is **27 February 2022**.

Preliminary programme

The conference will begin each day with a [keynote talk](#). We welcome Prof. Norbert Hölzel, Prof. Shuli Niu, and Prof. Jiang Zhigang as our keynote speakers. Then, regular talk and speed talk (poster) sessions will take place, with two sessions running in parallel. Following these sessions, each day [special events](#) will take place. Participants are welcome to join any of these special events, e.g. “Meet the editors”, “Workshop for vegetation scientists on the establishment of one or more IAVS Regional Section(s) for Asia”, “Workshop on vegetation typologies in Asia and their cross-walks to/overlaps with phytosociological syntaxa”, and an “Introduction to EDGG and GrassPlot”. Each day will culminate in an informal happy hour, where participants can interact freely. In addition, participants can make announcements or initiate get-togethers using the noticeboard. To find more information, please visit the conference web site: <https://edgg.org/AGC>.

Our aim is to make the conference convenient for participants from different time zones, so the programme each day will take approximately 6 hours. The conference will start at 10:00 Istanbul Time and 15:00 Beijing Time and finish at 16:00 Istanbul Time and 21:00 Beijing Time. We will use an online conference platform for the event, where participants can plan their participation in activities according to their own time zones. Finally, at the end of the conference, a closing ceremony will be held where prize winners will be announced. Below is a provisional version of the programme, though it is likely to change depending on the abstract submissions for the individual sessions.



Ovis karelini in Helan Mountain area, Inner Mongolia, China. Photo: J. Li.

Preliminary programme of each day

Time (Istanbul, Moscow)	Time (Beijing)	Activity
10:00 – 11:00	15:00 – 16:00	Welcome, announcements, keynote talk
11:00 – 11:15	16:00 – 16:15	Break
11:15 – 12:15	16:15 – 17:15	Two regular talk sessions in parallel
12:15 – 13:15	17:15 – 18:15	Two regular talk sessions in parallel
13:15 – 13:30	18:15 – 18:30	Break
13:30 – 14:00	18:30 – 19:00	Two speed talk sessions in parallel
14:30 – 15:00	19:30 – 20:00	Two speed talk sessions in parallel
15:00 – 15:30	20:00 – 20:30	Questions and answers for speed talks in break rooms, optional break rooms, happy hour
15:30 – 16:30	20:30 – 21:30	Special events: workshops and meetings, happy hour

Keynotes

The AGC will offer keynote presentations that will provide comprehensive, enlightening and inspiring information on grasslands. At the beginning of each day, a distinguished scientist will present a keynote talk. We are pleased to welcome three brilliant scientists presenting on vegetation ecology, global change and wildlife ecology.



Prof. Norbert Hölzel

Institute of Landscape Ecology, University of Münster, Münster, Germany

Prof. Hölzel's research interests in grassland ecology span restoration, landscape ecology, land use, biodiversity and ecosystem functioning interactions, vegetation patterns, ecology of rare and endangered species, seed ecology and the

effects of global change on landscapes, habitats and species. He has led, or worked in, several projects in Eurasia. His research group works intensively on a large-scale, long-running project in Asia: land-use change and landscape dynamics in Western Siberia and Kazakhstan. Furthermore, he is a leading scientist in a long-term biodiversity research and monitoring project in Germany, the Biodiversity Exploratories. He is a member of the editorial board of several scientific journals and scientific organizations. His talk will focus on the impact of Post-Soviet land-use change on Central Asian steppe ecosystems.

[Profile University of Münster](#)

[Google Scholar](#)

[ResearchGate](#)



Prof. Shuli Niu

Institute of Geography and Natural Resources, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China

Prof. Shuli Niu's research focuses on ecosystem carbon and nitrogen cycles and their coupling in response to global change. By setting up a few global change manipulative experiments in grasslands, her

group has comprehensively studied biodiversity, community structure, and ecosystem functions in response to multiple global change factors. She has (co-) authored over 160 scientific articles that have been cited over 8500 times (data from Google Scholar). She is a member of the Science Steering Committee of AsiaFlux and serves as associate editor for the journals *Ecology Letters*, *Functional Ecology*, and *Journal of Geophysical Research-Biogeosciences*. Her keynote talk will be about the response of alpine grassland to global change gradients.

[Profile IGSNRR](#)

[Google Scholar](#)

[ResearchGate](#)



Prof. Zhigang Jiang

Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China

Prof. Jiang's research focuses on the endangered species of wild fauna, particularly the ecology, diversity, behavior and conservation of mammals. He has authored more than 300 scientific publications and 20 books on those subjects, including: *Principles of Conservation Biology*, *Field Methods for Nature Conservation*, *Principles of Animal Behavior*, *Methods of Species Conservation* and *Mammalian Diversity and Geographic Distribution* in China. He is affiliated with commissions and institutes working on red lists, wildlife and endangered species conservation and national parks.

His keynote talk will focus on the wild ungulates of the grasslands in China, their status and conservation. China is the country with the most diverse ungulate species in the world (71 species, 21% endemic), of which, more than one third (25 species) inhabit various grassland habitats. Moreover, several are endangered and flagship species. He will explore the diversity, distribution and conservation of wild ungulates and ask the question of how to achieve conservation goals on grasslands which are increasingly used for production purposes.

[Profile IOZ](#)

[Google Scholar](#)

[ResearchGate](#)

Conference format

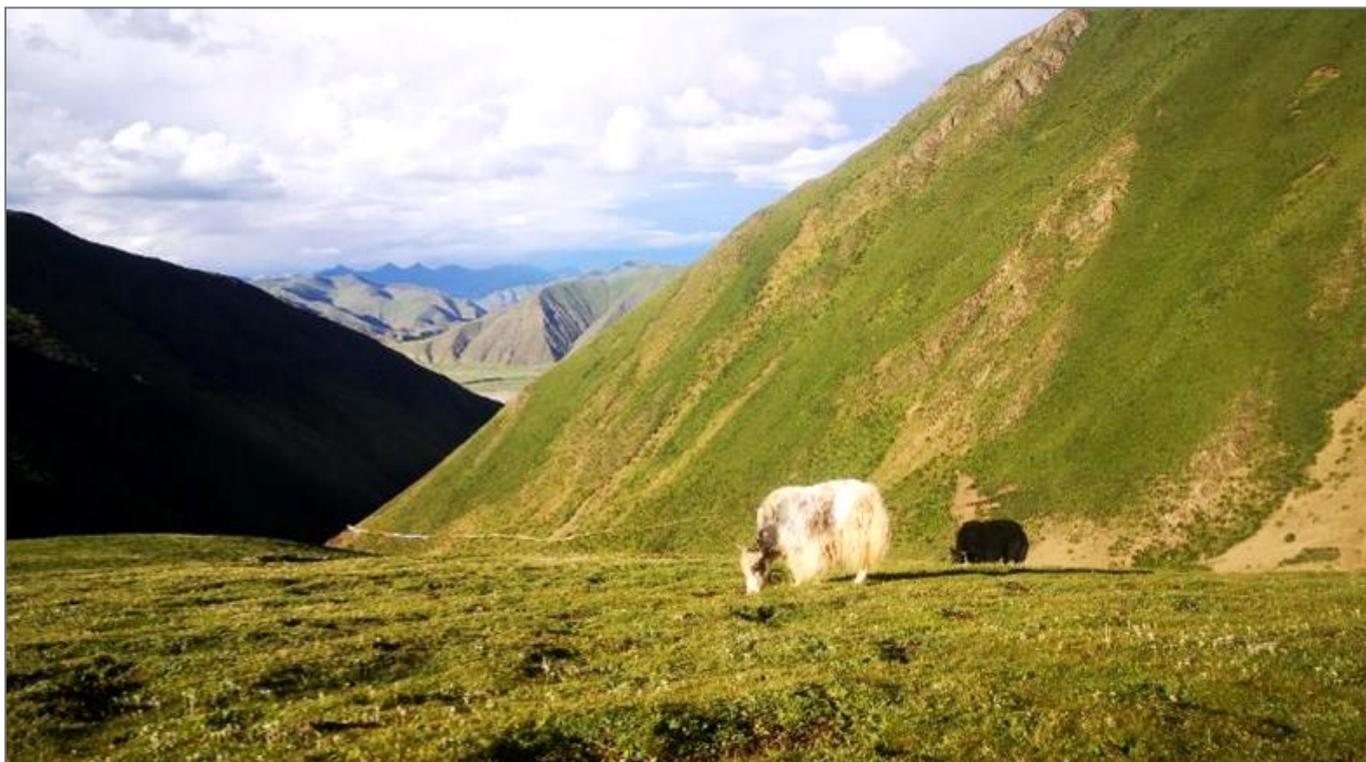
The conference will be almost completely live but supported with pre-recordings. An online conference platform will be used so that people will find it easy to navigate between conference rooms, poster halls, information desks etc and easily navigate to the program and upcoming talks in front. A company specialised in organising large online events will manage the platform. Most importantly, participants will be able to follow the program according to their own time zone. Once a participant chooses to join a hall session, a Zoom link will open. All sessions and workshops will take place via Zoom, so that people will be able to participate by switching on their audio and videos to ask questions. This will enable more interaction between participants and avoid the feeling of watching tv alone at home.

The flow of the conference will include a welcome speech, announcements, keynote talks, talk sessions, special events and question and answer sessions (Q&A); and will be online and live over Zoom. The speed talk sessions will follow the regular talks and will be a mixture of recordings and live Q&A sessions to use the time available efficiently. For the sake of smooth flow, we will ask all presenters to pre-record their talks and send them to the organizers. Abstract acceptance letters will include guidelines on how to prepare the pre-recordings, and how to prepare and submit e-posters. All pre-recordings will be accessible for one month after the conference.

The regular talks will be completely live. In the event of technical problems with live presentations, the pre-recorded talks will be broadcast. Each talk will have a duration of 12 min plus 3 min for questions.

The speed talks will replace the poster session of conventional face-to face conferences. The speed-talk presenters will prepare an e-poster in the designated format and additionally provide a short 3-min speed talk recording (video) of their posters. The posters and videos will be submitted before the conference. The posters will be on display throughout the duration of the conference in the e-poster hall. The videos of the speed talks of each speed-talk session will be combined and played during the time slots allocated to the speed talks. We also ask the speed talk presenters to be ready then so that they can answer questions right after the relevant video. We will arrange break-out rooms for this purpose. Workshops will also be broadcast live via Zoom and moderated by session chairs. The Zoom links for the workshops will be provided via the online conference platform. The special events will also take place live in Zoom.

The conference platform has many functionalities to make it easier to follow the conference program, access materials and pose questions. Detailed information on how to use the platform will be provided in the third call.



Two yaks browsing on an alpine meadow (4500 m. a.s.l.) dominated by *Kobresia pygmaea*. Cn Sog County, Tibetan Autonomous Region, China. Photo: J. Wu.

Sessions

There will be regular talk sessions and speed talk sessions. Each person may submit an abstract for up to two talks, but only one talk in the regular talk sessions.

Regular talk sessions: There will be two 2-hour regular talk sessions run in parallel each day. Each session will consist of four 15-min slots. The talks will be delivered live, but the presenters should provide a pre-recorded presentation (up to 12 min) before the conference, for use in case of technical issues. The recorded presentation should clearly deliver the presentation, and a recommended format is a slide video show, with the talk recorded.

Speed talk sessions: There will be two 1-hour speed talk sessions running in parallel each day, for poster presenters to introduce their posters using a pre-recorded short video. Each video may show up to 3 slides, and should last no longer than three minutes. Each session is planned to have 15 video presentations, and be followed by a half-hour session to gather all of the presenters and participants for questions and answers on the posters and speed talks. The posters will be accessible via the conference platform throughout the duration of the conference. Visitors will be able to send their questions to the presenters via the online platform. A chat option will also be available for online participants.



Cupido osiris, Turkey. Photo: D. Ambarlı.

Themes of the sessions

The themes cover all aspects of *research and conservation relevant to Asian natural and semi-natural grasslands*. Below you can find a preliminary list of the session topics with short explanations. Presentations on other subjects of grassland research are also welcome.

1. **Biodiversity of grasslands**, focusing on the patterns, dynamics and drivers of a wide range of biodiversity levels in any taxonomic group
2. **Ecology and taxonomy of plant and fungi species in grasslands**, including the distribution, population dynamics, ecophysiology, phylogenetic relationships etc. of individual species, or a specific taxonomic group
3. **Ecology and taxonomy of grassland vertebrate species**, including the distribution, population dynamics, phylogenetic relationships, behaviour, ecophysiology etc of individual taxa. This session also covers wildlife management.
4. **Ecology and taxonomy of grassland invertebrate species**, including the distribution, population dynamics, phylogenetic and trophic relationships, behaviour etc of individual species or a specific taxonomic group.
5. **Grassland ecosystems under global change**, including climate change, land-use change, habitat destruction, biotic invasions and eutrophication, carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions, and their impacts, mitigation and adaptation in natural and semi-natural grassland regions.
6. **Functional ecology of grasslands**, including nutrient cycling, water processes, pollination, herbivory, predation, decomposition etc, plant-animal- microbial interactions, biological functional traits and ecosystem multifunctionality.
7. **Grassland conservation, management and restoration**, including the conservation prioritization, planning and management of protected areas and national parks, management of grasslands for animal husbandry and relevant ecosystem services, and for sustainable natural resource use, and theory and techniques for restoring degraded or desertified grasslands.
8. **Vegetation and habitat classification of grasslands**, at any level and with any scientific approach.
9. **Remote sensing, mapping and modelling of grasslands**, including biogeography, vegetation zonation, land-cover classification, grassland monitoring and assessment.
10. **Livelihoods and sustainability of pastoral communities**, including evaluation of the values of multiple ecosystem services, policies for ecological compensation, payment schemes for conservation, low-carbon pastoral farms, green food production, ecotourism.
11. **Open-subject session:** This section is for any contributions that do not suit the themes listed above.

Important dates

- **Deadline for abstract submission:** 27 February 2022
- **Completion of abstract evaluation and acceptance emails:** 20 March 2022
- **Publication of the third call with a detailed program:** 8 April 2022
- **Deadline for registration (as a non-presenter):** 15 April 2022
- **Conference:** 19 – 21 April 2022

Registration

You can find all instructions at <https://edgg.org/agc/registration>.

For registration, please follow these steps:

1. Create a new account or log into the EDGG website if you already have an account: [EDGG homepage login](#). You cannot proceed to the next steps if you do not have an account.
Make sure the information in your user account is up-to-date, particularly regarding contact details.
2. Register for the conference in the separate webform: [AGC 2022 Registration](#).
3. Please [Upload abstracts](#) for your conference contributions.

For most of the special events and the young investigator competitions, participants should indicate their choices by checking the boxes on the AGC registration form. Registrations for the Photo Competitions and Special Features will not be collected during the conference registration, but should be done separately (see attachments at the end). Finally, there is no need to register for happy hours, as they are informal and for the purpose of relaxation.

Abstract submission

Authors are requested to submit their abstracts using the [Upload abstracts](#) link. Abstracts should be prepared according to the abstract template provided there. The Abstracts will be reproduced as submitted and provided to all participants in the Book of Abstracts, with the aim of providing a brief and overall insight of each presentation. Abstracts can only be accepted on the understanding that they will be presented at the conference. Up to two presentations per participant are permitted. If you want to submit two abstracts, then each abstract should be uploaded separately. Please note that once an abstract has been uploaded, it is no longer possible to edit or delete it!



Horses in Northern Caucasus, Karachay, Cherkess Republic. Photo: O. Demina.

Special events

Apart from scientific presentations, the AGC will provide space for special events that facilitate information exchange and networking. Below, you can find descriptions of the planned events. Participants will have the opportunity to register for these events at registration. This information will enable us to plan a schedule that minimizes clashes. We reserve the right to cancel special events that do not receive an adequate level of interest.

- **Meet the Editors:** This interactive event aims to bring participants and editors of relevant journals together. People can ask any questions about all stages of the publishing process, such as submission, evaluation criteria, language issues, how to reply to editors and how to deal with a rejection. Participants will also have the opportunity to learn more about the “kitchen” of publishing. On the podium there will be several experienced editors from a wide range of relevant international scientific journals:
 - ◆ Jürgen Dengler (Chief Editor of *Vegetation Classification and Survey*, Guest Editor of *Journal of Vegetation Science* and *Tuexenia*, Editorial Board of *Applied Vegetation Science*);
 - ◆ Shuli Niu (Associate Editor of *Ecology Letters*, *Functional Ecology*, and *Journal of Geophysical Research-Biogeosciences*);
 - ◆ Péter Török (Editor of *Restoration Ecology*, *Applied Vegetation Science*, *Flora* and *Land Degradation & Development*);
 - ◆ Orsolya Valkó (Editor of *Biological Conservation*, speciality chief editor of *Frontiers of Ecology and Evolution*, Guest Editor of *Hacquetia*);
 - ◆ Jianshuang Wu (Editor of *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* and *Frontiers in Environmental Science*).
- **Initiation of IAVS Regional Section(s) for Asia:** EDGG is an official Working Group of the International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS; www.iavs.org). While IAVS has several well-organised Regional Sections or Working Groups for Europe, North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as Africa, vegetation ecologists in the largest of all continents are currently not formally organised across borders. We will discuss the pros and cons of establishing a network for Asian vegetation ecologists within IAVS, whether one or several Regional Sections would make sense, what could be the aims of such Regional Sections and who would like to be active within them. We will also invite selected vegetation ecologists from Asian countries specialised in forests, wetlands, alpine, segetal and urban habitats to participate in this discussion.

Coordination and contact: Jürgen Dengler, dr.juergen.dengler@gmail.com.
- **Workshop on the vegetation typologies in Palaeartic Asia and their crosswalks to/overlaps with phytosociological syntaxa:** The aim of this workshop is to better understand vegetation typologies of non-forest habitats in Asia from a global point-of-view. Specifically, we would like to harmonize Asian typologies with those of Grass-Plot, an EDGG-associated database of multi-scale vegetation-plot data of Palaeartic grasslands and other open habitats (<https://edgg.org/databases/GrassPlot>). All the vegetation plots incorporated in the GrassPlot database are currently assigned to a vegetation typology, which include 22 ecological-physiognomic vegetation types grouped into six coarse units (see [Appendix S2 in Biurrun et al. 2021](#)). While this two-level classification, along with its syntaxonomic crosswalk, is reasonably tested for Europe, many "grey" and undefined zones remain for the Asian continent, both in the GrassPlot classification and the syntaxonomic classification. Any contribution about the phytosociological classification of grasslands and other open habitats from any part of the Asian continent, as well as any critical review of the current GrassPlot typological classification, are highly welcome in this workshop. If successful, we anticipate a joint publication on the topic from this workshop. **Coordination and contact:** Idoia Biurrun (idoia.biurrun@ehu.es) and Riccardo Guarino (guarinotro@hotmail.com).
- **Young Investigator Competition:** This competition will reward young scientists for excellent presentations of their research. Young scientists (less than 30 years old) will be asked during registration if they wish to participate in the contest. During her/his presentation, the applicant will be required to clearly indicate her/his contribution to the presented work. Talks and posters will be evaluated separately.
- **Happy Hour:** At the end of the daily sessions, all participants are invited to join a happy hour, where they can interact with other participants freely and talk. For this purpose, we will offer a cosy virtual event space where people can meet and talk. Guests will have the possibility of chatting with their peers or to join conversations in small groups.
- **Noticeboard:** We will set up a noticeboard on the online conference platform where participants can share their announcements (including job opportunities, scholarships, possibilities of exchange visits, events etc.). Please send your announcements, including any relevant links and files, in good time us at edgg.agc@gmail.com.
- **Photo competition:** On occasion of the AGC, EDGG is conducting a photo competition on Asian grasslands with four subtopics. The winners will be announced during the Closing Session of the AGC. For details, see separate call attached to this document.

Special Features

We are proud to announce that a total of three Special Features in international journals will be produced in conjunction with the AGC, and AGC participants are strongly encouraged to submit their suitable conference contributions there:

- **Special Feature in Biodiversity and Conservation** for all high-quality paper dealing with biodiversity and conservation of grasslands in Asia.
- **Special Collection in Vegetation Classification and Survey** for papers dealing with classification and typology of grasslands s.l. in Asia.
- **Special Feature in Hacquetia** for regional and local studies dealing with flora, fauna, ecology and conservation of Asian grasslands

For more information, including deadlines, see the specific calls in the attachment.

Organisers

This conference is organised by the Eurasian Dry Grassland Group, and its conductance free of charge is made possible thanks to the generous financial support of the International Association for Vegetation Science and the Inner Mongolia University.



The [Eurasian Dry Grassland Group \(EDGG\)](#) is a network of more than 1300 researchers and conservationists from over 60 countries who are interested in any aspect of natural and semi-natural grasslands in the Palaearctic biogeographic realm. It was established in 2008 as the successor of the German "Arbeitsgruppe Trockenrasen". It is now a working group of the International Association for Vegetation Science ([IAVS](#)) and a member of the European Forum for Nature Conservation and Pastoralism ([EFNCP](#)). Its basic aims are to compile and distribute information on research in, and conservation of, natural and semi-natural grasslands beyond national borders, and to stimulate active cooperation between scientists, practitioners and all who work with or are interested in grasslands. EDGG publishes its own diamond open access journal [Palaearctic Grasslands](#), organises international conferences, talks and research expeditions and hosts the [GrassPlot database](#) of multi-scale, multi-taxon grassland diversity data. Membership is free of charge.



The [International Association for Vegetation Science \(IAVS\)](#) is a global association of scientists and others interested in theoretical and practical studies of all aspects of vegetation. The main goals of the IAVS are to facilitate personal contacts between vegetation scientists all over the world and to promote research in all aspects of vegetation science and its

applications. IAVS publishes three leading journals covering all fields of basic, applied and descriptive vegetation ecology, namely [Journal of Vegetation Science \(JVS\)](#), [Applied Vegetation Science \(AVS\)](#) and [Vegetation Classification and Survey \(VCS\)](#). IAVS provide numerous advantages to its members, such as networking, discounts on books, submissions and IAVS-funded conferences related to vegetation science. If you are not yet an IAVS member, you can [join for a low rate](#), while [free membership is available for inhabitants of many low- to medium-income countries](#).



The [Inner Mongolia University](#) is a comprehensive university founded in 1957 in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region of China. It has 2,727 faculty and staff members and delivers education programs in ten disciplines (philosophy, economics, law, literature, art, history, science, engineering, agriculture, and management). There are 19,781 undergraduates and 6,462 postgraduates currently enrolled in the university. The university is also one of the key research and innovation centers in Northern China, with biology and ecology as one of its strong scientific areas. It hosts state key research centers in grassland ecology and animal science.

Sponsors

Three scientific publishers/journals provided support in form of prizes for competition or vouchers for free open access publishing in their journal. We gratefully acknowledge their support.



[Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution](#) publishes leading research across the spectrum of ecology and evolutionary biology, advancing our understanding of the natural world and how it can best be managed.

[Grassland Research](#), as a newly launched international open-access journal in grassland science, is committed to being a think-tank for all grassland stakeholders, including researchers, students, production managers, technicians, and policymakers. To better serve the community, Grassland Research has diverse publications on aspects related to grassland research from molecular biology to global change.



[Pensoft](#) is an independent academic publishing company, known for its cutting-edge publishing tools and methods for text and data publishing of journals, books and conference materials. Founded in 1992 "by scientists, for scientists", Pensoft is now a leading publisher of more than 60 innovative open access journals, mostly in the field of biodiversity and environmental sciences, including [Vegetation Classification and Survey](#), which will host one of the AGC-associated Special Collections.

Organizing Committee

For your questions, suggestions and requests, please contact the Organizing Committee:

Didem Ambarlı (Chair)

Düzce University, Turkey, didem.ambarli@gmail.com

Alla Aleksanyan

Institute of Botany after A.L. Takhtajyan NAS RA, Yerevan, Armenia, alla.alexanyan@gmail.com

Jürgen Dengler

Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), Wädenswil, Switzerland, dr.juergen.dengler@gmail.com

Frank Yonghong Li

Inner Mongolia University, Hohhot, China, lifyhong@126.com

Stephen Venn

University of Łódź, Poland, stephen.venn@helsinki.fi

Jianshuang Wu

Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Beijing, China, wujianshuang@caas.cn



Scientific Committee

The conference has a broad-based Scientific Committee, representing expertise in different parts of Asia and disciplines.

Alla Aleksanyan, Institute of Botany after A.L. Takhtajyan NAS RA, Yerevan, Armenia

Didem Ambarlı, Düzce University, Turkey

Kuber Bhatta, University of Bergen, Norway

Idoia Biurrun, University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU, Bilbao, Spain

Tatyana M. Bragina, Kostanay Regional University named after A. Baitursynov, Kazakhstan

Elena Bykova, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Iwona Dembicz, University of Warsaw, Poland

Jürgen Dengler, Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), Wädenswil, Switzerland

Jiri Dolezal, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic

Choimaa Dulamsuren, University of Freiburg, Germany

Riccardo Guarino, University of Palermo, Italy

Monika Janišová, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Banská Bystrica, Slovakia

Pavel Krestov, Botanical Garden-Institute FEB RAS, Vladivostok, Russia

Anna Kuzemko, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine

Rocco Labadessa, National Research Council (CNR), Bari, Italy

Frank Yonghong Li, Inner Mongolia University, Hohhot, China

Diqiang Li, Chinese Academy of Forestry, Beijing, China

Alireza Naqinezhad, University of Mazandaran, Bābolsar, Iran

Arkadiusz Nowak, Polish Academy of Sciences Botanical Garden, Opole, Poland

Ilya Smelansky, Siberian Environmental Center, Novosibirsk, Russia

Marcelo Sternberg, Tel Aviv University, Israel

Péter Török, University of Debrecen, Hungary

Atushi Ushimaru, Kobe University, Japan

Orsolya Valkó, Centre for Ecological Research, Vácrátót, Hungary

Steven Venn, University of Łódź, Poland

Karsten Wesche, Senckenberg Museum of Natural History Görlitz, Germany

Jianshuang Wu, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Beijing, China

Call for Photo Competition “Asian Grasslands” in *Palaeartic Grasslands*

To celebrate the first Asian Grassland Conference, the journal [Palaeartic Grasslands](#) of EDGG launches a Photo Competition on Asian grasslands. Asian grasslands are unique worldwide for their variety of habitats, species and land-use practices. The aim of this Photo Competition is to highlight this wealth of immense beauty and conservation value. Participants of the conference, as well as all EDGG members, are invited to send up to three high-quality photographs on each of the following subtopics:

- Asian grassland plants;
- Asian grassland animals;
- Asian grassland landscapes;
- Humans and grasslands in Asia.

The photos should be in high resolution (full-size JPEG or TIFF images, at least 300 dpi) and be accompanied by captions including a short title or description and information on the subject (species name, date, place name).

The Photo Jury will select the best photographs. The three best shots in each category will be awarded with full space publication in the next issue of *Palaeartic Grasslands* and will be presented in the closing session of the conference. We reserve the right to also use non-winning photos for illustrative purposes in other parts of the issue. Published photos will be licensed under the CC BY-SA, and supporters of the conference can use them with proper credits. If you want to take part in the competition, please submit your photos together with required information to Edy Fantinato (edy.fantinato@unive.it) by **31 March 2022**.

Photo Jury: Edy Fantinato (Chair), Magdalena Firganek-Fulcher, Anna Kuzemko, Rocco Labadessa, Jim Martin, Alireza Naqinezhad, Jalil Noroozi, Salza Palpurina.



Historical heritage near the State Natural Reserve Altyn Dala (Golden Steppe), Kazakhstan. Photo: T.M. Bragina.

Call to contribute to the Special Collection “Biodiversity and Conservation of Asian Grasslands” in *Biodiversity and Conservation*

Editors

Didem Ambarlı (Turkey, Chair), Riccardo Guarino (Italy), Frank Yonghong Li (China), Jianshuang Wu (China). In addition, an editor with expertise on the biodiversity and conservation of animals in Asia will join the editorial team.

Outline

Asia provides excellent research opportunities with vast grasslands, rich biodiversity, diverse and unique environments, and varied ecological and evolutionary processes. Simultaneously, it poses significant challenges for nature conservation and sustainable livelihoods due to ongoing global warming and land-use changes. However, many valuable scientific and conservation outputs about Asian Grasslands are not accessible to English-reading audiences. Therefore, bringing forward those precious ecosystems and relevant research advances to a global audience is necessary.

The [Eurasian Dry Grassland Group](#) and the journal [Biodiversity and Conservation](#) (Impact Factor: 3.549) are happy to launch a joint **Special Feature (SF) within the scope of "Biodiversity and Conservation of Asian Grasslands"**.

This SF welcomes regular papers and reviews within the scope of *Biodiversity and Conservation*, including biodiversity patterns, conservation prioritization, wildlife management, conservation planning, grassland biodiversity and ecosystem functioning under global change, livelihoods and sustainability of pastoral communities in Asia. Studies focusing solely on vegetation classification are not suitable for this SF but suitable for another SF organized by EDGG in the journal [Vegetation Classification and Survey](#). Studies with a very narrow geographical scope are not suitable for this SF unless the outputs have broader importance; instead, they can be submitted to a third parallel SF edited by EDGG in *Hacquetia*. Contributions presented at the [AGC](#) are particularly welcome, but also papers not related to the AGC are possible to submit.

Procedure and deadlines

Interested authors should first submit an abstract of their work to the Guest Editor, Dr Didem Ambarlı (didem.ambarli@gmail.com), by 01 May 2022 for initial check and valuation. The abstract should have a maximum of 300 words, a complete list and affiliations of the authors, contact details of the corresponding author, and include study aim or research questions, study area, methods, results and conclusions.

- **20 December 2021:** Publication of the call for contributions
- **Until 01 May 2022:** Submission of (preliminary) abstracts
- **Until 30 May 2022:** submitted abstracts will be evaluated continuously, and manuscripts either invited or declined
- **Until 31 December 2022:** submission of the papers (with prevalence to invited papers, while non-invited manuscripts might be considered on a one-by-one basis). All manuscripts should follow the journal's Author Guidelines and comply with the journal's submission rules.

Manuscripts will undergo peer-review and be published on a one-by-one basis once accepted.

We anticipate that we will conclude the whole Special Collection in the first half of 2023.

Contact for questions and submission of manuscripts (Chair of the Guest Editors): **Didem Ambarlı** (didem.ambarli@gmail.com).



Spermophilus fulvus, *Pulsatilla flavescens*, *Trichius fasciatus* and *Tulipa patens* in Naurzum Reserve, Kazakhstan.
Photo: T. Bragina.

Call to contribute to the Special Collection “Grasslands of Asia” in *Vegetation Classification and Survey*

The Eurasian Dry Grassland Group invites contributions to a Special Collection “Grasslands of Asia” in the journal [Vegetation Classification and Survey](#).

Editors

Jürgen Dengler (Switzerland, Chair), Idoia Biurrun (Spain), Pavel Krestov (Russia), Alireza Naqinezhad (Iran) & Arkadiusz Nowak (Poland).

Outline

Asia is the largest continent on Earth, but also the continent with the most extensive grasslands. Enigmatic are the huge and diverse steppes in the interior of the continent, but there are also arctic grass tundras, alpine grasslands, alpine steppes, desertic steppes, subtropical savannas and a multitude of semi-natural grasslands created by millennia of human land use. Classification is an essential approach to make the huge diversity of different grassland types better accessible and comparable, both for basic research and applied sciences such as management and conservation. However, only few countries in Asia have a strong tradition in grassland classification. Moreover, the classification approaches vary strongly between and even within countries. Thus, it is currently hard to achieve a consistent scientific overview on the grassland types of Asia.

Thus on the occasion of the first **Asian Grassland Conference** (AGC; <https://edgg.org/AGC>), the **Eurasian Dry Grassland Group** (EDGG; <https://edgg.org/>) and the gold open access journal *Vegetation Classification and Survey* (VCS; <https://vcs.pensoft.net/>) would like to launch a **Special Collection of articles dealing with “Grasslands of Asia” with a typological view**. In agreement with the scope of the journal, papers should **develop, test or apply vegetation typologies or present vegetation-plot databases or tools in ecoinformatics**. Typological approaches at any spatial scale from synusiae via phytocoenoses and landscapes to biomes are welcome. We are open to any approach to classify vegetation, including but not limited to the Braun-Blanquet approach and the EcoVeg approach. We particularly encourage studies based on extensive original data, but accept also regional and even local studies if they come from underrepresented regions or are methodologically innovative. Contributions presented at the AGC are particularly welcome, but also papers not related to the AGC are possible.

Procedure and deadlines

- **31/10/2021:** Publication of the call
- **Until 30/04/2022:** Submission of (preliminary) abstracts (maximum 300 words, structured into “Question(s)”, “Study area”, “Methods”, “Results” and “Conclusions”) to dr.juergen.dengler@gmail.com
- **Until 15/05/2022:** submitted abstracts will be evaluated continuously and manuscripts either invited or declined
- **Until 30/09/2022:** submission of papers (with prevalence to invited papers, while also non-invited manuscripts might be considered on a one-by-one basis)
- Manuscripts will undergo peer-review and be published on a one-by-one basis once accepted
- We anticipate that we will conclude the whole Special Collection in the first half of 2023

Please note that *Vegetation Classification and Survey* is a gold open access journal, which normally requests article processing charges (APCs) from authors. Thanks to the generous support of the [IAVS](#), articles submitted until the end of 2022 are exempt from APCs, provided that the first author is an IAVS member. Membership is free of charge for scientists from many Asian countries. Moreover, Pensoft the publisher, will cover the APCs of the first two accepted papers.



Yaks in Obikhingou Valley, Tajikistan. Photo: A. Nowak.

Call for the 7th EDGG Special Feature in *Hacquetia*: “Fauna, flora, vegetation and conservation of Asian grasslands”

This is the first call for the submission of manuscripts for the EDGG-edited Special Feature in *Hacquetia* 2023. This Special Feature will be dedicated to papers dealing with Asian grasslands. We welcome manuscripts about natural and semi-natural grasslands, on all taxa and from any region in Asia. Both original research papers and review papers focusing on topics such as ecology, botany, zoology, conservation biology, restoration ecology, taxonomy, syntaxonomy, ethnoecology and rangeland management of Asian grasslands are welcome. Presenters at the Asian Grassland Conference are especially welcome to submit papers related to their presentations, but the SF is open not only to participants of the AGC, but to any scientist dealing with grasslands in Asia.

Hacquetia is the international journal of the Biological Branch of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences. It publishes two issues per year, both in print and online. Its offering of longer articles, diamond open access publication and free reproduction of colour figures make it a very attractive publication venue. Currently it is indexed in the Scopus and BIOSIS literature databases, and it is likely to be included in the Web of Science in the near future (aided by our very international and high-quality Special Issues and your citations of these).

This Special Feature will be the 7th EDGG-edited article collection which has appeared in *Hacquetia*, following the six successful predecessors in 2014/1, 2015/1, 2016/2, 2018/1, 2019/2 and 2021/1. This Special Feature will appear as the first issue of 2023, to be published approximately in January 2023, with about 150–250 pages reserved for our articles.

Procedure and deadlines

If you plan to contribute, you are invited to **send an abstract** prior to manuscript submission to the Chair of Guest Editors, Orsolya Valkó, until **28 February 2022**. Based on the submitted abstracts, the guest editor team will decide which papers to invite and will inform the authors by **10 March 2022**.

The deadline for full-text submission is **30 April 2022**. If you are interested in contributing a manuscript for this comprehensive Special Feature, please contact the chief of the guest editor team (Orsolya Valkó, valkoorsi@gmail.com) and submit your manuscript directly to her. Manuscripts will be checked by the editorial board and suitable manuscripts will undergo the normal peer-review process. For detailed author guidelines, please consult the earlier issues of the Journal or contact the chief of the guest editors directly.

Guest Editor Team:

Orsolya Valkó, Hungary

Yun Jäschke, Germany

Alireza Naqinezhad, Iran

Rocco Labadessa, Italy

Stephen Venn, Finland

Contact for questions and submission of manuscripts (Chair of the Guest Editors): **Orsolya Valkó** (valkoorsi@gmail.com)



Dry steppe in Kazakhstan. Photo: B. Deák.